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Current Affairs
17 Oct, 2024

Kaksar Bridge Renamed in Honor of Kargil War Hero Capt. Amit Bhardwaj



1. Kaksar Bridge Renamed in Honor of Kargil War Hero Capt. Amit Bhardwaj

Kaksar Bridge was renamed Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu in honor of Capt. Amit Bhardwaj's sacrifice during the Kargil War. The renaming ceremony was attended by key military and civil officials, including CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun and Major General K. Mahesh, SM.



Foot notes:

- Dr. Akhoun praised the Indian Army's contributions in Kargil, including education and humanitarian efforts through the Sadbhavana Scheme.
- Capt. Bhardwaj's sister, Sunita Dhonkaria, inaugurated a memorial at the bridge in his honor.
- Capt. Bhardwaj, from the 4 JAT Battalion, died heroically during a 1999 rescue operation against infiltrators in Kaksar.
- The bridge renaming serves as a lasting tribute to his courage and service.

2. President Murmu received an honorary doctorate in Algeria

President Droupadi Murmu received an honorary doctorate in political science from Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers. The doctorate was presented to Murmu by Kamal Baddari, Algeria's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. President Murmu highlighted India's commitment to providing quality education at affordable prices.



Foot notes:

- President Murmu emphasized India's commitment to providing affordable, quality education, especially for African students.
- She invited Algerian institutions to benefit from Indian government scholarships and educational programs, noting the success of ITEC alumni.
- Murmu highlighted education as a tool for neutralizing inequalities and promoting equal opportunities.
- She discussed India's technological advancements, noting that 36% of IT professionals are women, and Algeria's interest in digital payment systems and space exploration.
- Murmu referenced India's upcoming Gaganyaan mission, which will launch astronauts into space next year.

About Algeria:

Official languages: Arabic, Tamazight

President: Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Prime Minister: Nadir Larbaoui

3. Senior BJP Leader Nayab Singh Sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister

BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second time on Thursday, October 17. The oath-taking ceremony, held in Panchkula, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and other senior BJP leaders. Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Saini. Several cabinet ministers, including Anil Vij, Vipul Goyal, Mahipal Dhandha, and Krishan Lal Panwar, were also sworn in during the event.



Foot notes:

- Massive security arrangements were made for the swearing-in ceremony in Panchkula, attended by around 50,000 people at Dussehra Ground, Sector 5.
- Notable attendees included Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Dev Sai, and Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.
- Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Manohar Lal Khattar were also present at the ceremony.

About Haryana:

Chief Minister: Nayab Singh Saini

Capital: Chandigarh

Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya

4. Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas

The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrasas to strengthen the educational curriculum and support students' academic growth. The board is planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state's Sanskrit department to formalize the change. This initiative will impact over 70,000 students, with discussions already underway and a formal proposal drafted.



Foot notes:

- The UMEB plans to sign an MoU with the state's Sanskrit department to introduce Sanskrit in 416 madrasas.
- In addition to Sanskrit, the board is considering adding computer studies to the curriculum.
- The introduction of the NCERT syllabus has led to over 95% student success this year.
- UMEB chairperson Mufti Shamoan Qasmi believes Sanskrit will further enhance students' educational growth.
- Arabic is already taught in over 100 madrasas and integrating both Arabic and Sanskrit aims to create a diverse linguistic environment.
- Waqf board chairperson Shadab Shams aims to transform 117 registered madrasas into model institutions promoting national values and modern education.

About Uttarakhand:

Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Bhararisen (Summer)

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhama

Governor: Gurmit Singh

5. Lionel Messi Honored as the First Recipient of the MARCA America Award

Messi was honored as the first recipient of the MARCA America Award, presented by the Spain-based media company. The award celebrates his illustrious career, featuring a record 46 titles for club and country, along with over 56 individual awards. The ceremony took place at Chase Stadium, where numerous figures gathered to recognize Messi's remarkable achievements as the "champion of champions."



Foot notes:

- Messi considers the 2022 World Cup win with Argentina his most cherished title, solidifying his legacy among football's greats.
- He has won trophies with Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain, and now Inter Miami, where he joined in July 2023.
- Despite being limited to 18 MLS matches due to injury and national team duties, Messi scored 17 goals and provided 15 assists.
- Messi helped lead Inter Miami to the 2024 Supporters' Shield, securing home-field advantage for the MLS Cup playoffs starting next week.

6. Vivaan Wins Silver, Naruka Claims Bronze at Shooting World Cup

Vivaan Kapoor secured a silver medal in the men's trap event at the ISSF World Cup, scoring 44 in the final. Anant Jeet Singh Naruka earned a bronze in men's skeet with a score of 43, adding to India's tally. India's medal count at the event reached four, including prior wins by Sonam Maskar and Akhil Sheoran.



Foot notes:

- Vivaan scored 120 out of 125 in the qualification round to enter the six-man finals.
- Rajasthan's 26-year-old Naruka shot 43 in the final, securing third place.
- Italy's Tamaro Cassandro and Gabriele Rossetti won gold and silver with scores of 57 and 56.
- Naruka qualified for the final with a score of 121 out of 125.
- Akhil Sheoran earned bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions.
- Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan finished fourth in the skeet mixed team event at the Paris Olympics, losing the bronze medal match to China.

7. Nikita Porwal Crowned Femina Miss India 2024

Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh has won the title of Femina Miss India 2024 at the 60th edition of the prestigious beauty pageant, held at Famous Studios in Mumbai. The competition featured 30 contestants, representing all 29 states and one Union Territory. Nikita's exceptional performance earned her the crown and the chance to represent India at the upcoming Miss World pageant.



Foot notes:

- Nikita Porwal was crowned Femina Miss India 2024 by Nandini Gupta, the 2023 winner, while Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia placed the Miss India sash on her.
- The pageant celebrated talent and beauty, creating a memorable moment for Nikita and her supporters.
- Nikita is from Ujjain, a city known for its rich mythology and cultural heritage.
- Growing up in this environment nurtured her curiosity, critical thinking, and passion for storytelling.
- She completed her schooling at Carmel Convent Senior Secondary School.
- Nikita is pursuing higher education at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, combining academics with her artistic aspirations.

8. Sourav Ganguly appointed as Director of Cricket at JSW Sports

Former BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly has been named the Director of Cricket at JSW Sports, overseeing cricketing properties like Delhi Capitals (IPL, WPL) and Pretoria Capitals (SAT20 League). He scored 11363 runs in his ODI career which stands at 9th position in the world for most runs scored in ODI matches.

Foot notes:

- Sourav Ganguly joined Delhi Capitals in 2019 as an advisor, working with coach Ricky Ponting.
- He later returned to the franchise as Director of Cricket after serving as BCCI president.
- The management of Delhi Capitals' IPL and WPL teams will rotate every two years between GMR Group and JSW Group.
- GMR Group will manage IPL operations for the next two years, while JSW Sports will handle the WPL team.
- Sourav Ganguly has been honored with prestigious awards, including the Arjuna Award for Cricket and the Padma Shri.



9. Karnal artist Aditi Anand wins UK Illustration Award

Aditi Anand, a 25-year-old artist from Haryana, won the Emerging Illustrator category at the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum's Illustration Awards for her artwork Marigolds. The artwork, addressing child labour in India, was selected from over 2,000 entries and earned a GBP 3,000 prize. Marigolds will be displayed at the V&A Museum in London until September 2025.

Foot notes:



- Aditi Anand, 25, from Anglia Ruskin University, won an award for her artwork 'Marigolds'.
- The artwork will be displayed at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Design Museum in London until September 2025.
- 'Marigolds' was selected from over 2,000 entries and won a GBP 3,000 prize.
- The piece, set in India, addresses the theme of child labour and lost childhoods.
- Inspired by Indian flower markets, it portrays a mother teaching her child to make marigold garlands for sale.
- Judges praised the use of color, contrasting the beauty of the flowers with the harsh realities of child labour.

10. Two Athletes Die at Triathlon World Championships in Spain

Two athletes, one from Britain and the other from Mexico, tragically died on the first day of the Torremolinos-Andalucia Triathlon Championship Finals. Both athletes were competing in the age-group sprint event. British Triathlon confirmed the death of one of its team members, without disclosing the individual's identity or cause of death. The Mexican Triathlon Federation identified the other athlete as 75-year-old Roger Mas Colomber.



Foot notes:

- British Triathlon confirmed the death of one of its Age-Group Team members, part of the veteran competitors' sub-discipline.
- World Triathlon expressed condolences to the athletes' families, friends, and federations on social media.
- Local reports stated the British athlete was a 57-year-old man who died of a heart attack.
- Over 4,000 triathletes registered for this year's age-group event, from a total of more than 5,500 participants, according to the Spanish Triathlon Federation.

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